

## November 7, 2006 Update

### **Update for the Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program Rulemaking (9 A.A.C. 4, Article 5)**

The Department is amending the rules in 9 A.A.C. 4, Article 5, to clarify reporting requirements for the Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program (ABDMP), specify information the Department may collect and how, improve organization, and address HIPAA issues that have arisen.

The Department has established a Rules Committee to provide input to the Department on the rulemaking for the ABDMP. The members of the Rules Committee are listed on the Web Page for the ABDMP.

The Rules Committee consists of individuals representing different groups that may be affected by the rulemaking. Members of the Rules Committee will be asked to bring issues and concerns from the groups they represent to Rules Committee meetings and to share information discussed at the meetings with the groups they represent.

The Department anticipates holding the first meeting of the Rules Committee in late November or early December. The dates for Committee meetings will be on the Web Page for the ABDMP.

A copy of the latest draft ABDMP rules has also been added to the Web Page. The ABDMP staff and staff from the Office of Administrative Rules will continue to meet to develop and revise draft rules, incorporating changes that result from the Rules Committee meetings into a new draft before the next Rules Committee meeting.

Stakeholders are asked to submit any comments about the rulemaking to Ruthann Smejkal, Rules Analyst for the Department, by e-mail at [smejkar@azdhs.gov](mailto:smejkar@azdhs.gov), by phone at 602-364-3959, or by fax at 602-364-1150.